

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 4 and 8-10 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3, 4 and 13 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 1, 11 and 12 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 14 are now pending in this application.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,095,566 ("Yamamoto et al."). In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants cancel claims 3 and 4 and rewrite claim 1 to include the allowable limitations of claim 4 and intervening claim 3. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that claim 1 be allowed. Further, claims 2 and 5-11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and claims 2 and 5-11 be allowed.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 3 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 2000-222516 ("Kazuo").

As stated above, claims 3 and 13 were cancelled. In addition, claim 12 was amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that claim 12 be allowed. In addition, claim 14 depends from independent claim 12 and is allowable for at least that reason without regard to the further

patentable limitations recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claim 14 and that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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